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Interim Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR

1940

BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Interim Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR

1940

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman: His Worship The Mayor
(Councillor L. Whitehouse, J.P.)

Councillor T. Berry.
Councillor D. C. Jackson.
Councillor Dr. G. I. Lambe.
Councillor Dr. A. Frost.
Councillor T. King.
Councillor G. W. Price.
Councillor Mrs. D. M. Wesson.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE COMMITTEE.

Chairman: Councillor Dr. G. I. Lambe.

His Worship The Mayor (Councillor L. Whitehouse, J.P.).

Alderman A. Beebee, J.P.
Alderman J. Mark, J.P.
Councillor Mrs. M. Bayley, J.P.
Councillor Dr. A. Frost.
Councillor T. Hollingsworth.
Councillor T. King.
Councillor F. A. Wadsworth.
Alderman C. Collins.
Alderman A. H. Westbury, J.P.
Councillor T. Berry.
Councillor F. B. Gardner.
Councillor D. C. Jackson.
Councillor G. W. Price.
Councillor Mrs. D. M. Wesson.

Co-opted Members:

The Mayoress; Mesdames Collins, Greenhough, J.P., Jackson, Price, Walton and Wilson.

The Borough of Wednesbury has been specified as a more vulnerable area under the Civil Defence (Specified Areas) Order, 1939, dated August 14th, 1939, made by the Lord Privy Seal under Section 12 of the Civil Defence Act, 1939 (2 and 3, Geo. VI., 6c. 31.)

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

Medical Officer of Health and School Medical Officer :

A. H. Kynaston, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Assistant Medical Officer of Health and Assistant School Medical Officer :

Miss L. M. Allen, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Consultant Obstetrician :

J. S. M. Connell, F.R.C.S.

Veterinary Surgeon :

H. Yeomans, M.R.C.V.S.

Chief Sanitary Inspector :

F. J. Turner, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors :

A. H. Matthews, A.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. (R.A.M.C. since 11/3/40).
G. H. Suggitt, M.S.I.A.

Health Visitors and School Nurses :

Miss C. L. Evans, S.R.N., C.M.B. (Superintendent Health Visitor and Child Life Protection Visitor).
Mrs. A. E. Boffey, C.M.B.
Mrs. A. A. Timmins, S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V.Cert., R.S.I.
Miss J. M. Wallace, S.R.N., C.M.B., H.V.Cert., R.S.I.
Miss A. Davies, C.M.B.

Clerks :

Chief Clerk : Mr. J. A. Jackson.

Miss D. Burgess.
Miss M. H. Troman.
Mr. A. Higgs.
Mr. J. W. Barber R.A.M.C. (since 17/10/40).
Mr. S. Matthewson (appointed 2/12/40).

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on your Public Health Services in respect of the year 1940, prepared in accordance with Circular 2314 of the Ministry of Health. It is, as was that of 1939, an abridged report interim in character ; it includes, however, certain tables omitted last year embodying figures for 1939 and 1940 in order that they shall be readily available for comparison.

The vital and other statistics show that despite a mode of life unparalleled and undreamt of—the health of our people has been well maintained. In achieving this, courage and fine determination have played no small part.

In their efforts to guard the public health and to assist in the Casualty Services of the Air Raid Precautions Department your staff have been unremitting.

On the 31st of August your Chief Sanitary Inspector, Mr. Herbert Topping, retired after 33 years devoted service—a period which has seen an improvement and advance in sanitary and housing conditions which is a source of congratulation and astonishment especially to those who return to the Borough after a lapse of time.

Times of war are times calling for increased vigilance and care, and I trust the public will increasingly use the facilities provided for preventive inoculation.

I am grateful to you, Mr. Mayor, and the Chairmen and Committee Members for much kindness and help ; to my colleague, Dr. Allen, for her loyal assistance in a particularly difficult year ; to the whole of the Departmental Staffs for devoted service, and for the ready co-operation of my colleagues in private practice, and the Officers of other Departments for assistance readily accorded.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,

A. H. Lynaston.

Medical Officer of Health.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall, Wednesbury.

September, 1941.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres)	2,025
Registrar-General's Estimate of :—	
(*a*) Resident population, mid 1940	
(*b*) Average population appropriate to the calculation of death rates	32,080
Registrar-General's Estimate of resident population, mid 1939	33,370
Population : Census, 1931	31,531
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940 according to Rate Books)	8,415
Rateable Value (1/10/1940)	£142,316
Estimated product of penny rate (1940–41)	£535

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

I am indebted to Mr. H. Bayliss, Manager of the Employment Exchange, for the following statistics :—

Unemployed at end of 1940 : Men (aged 21 and over), 111 ; Young Men (18–20 inclusive), 8 ; Boys (14–17 inclusive), nil. Women (aged 21 and over), 53 ; Young Women (18–20 inclusive), 6 ; Girls (14–17 inclusive), 6. Total : 184, made up of 102 wholly unemployed and 82 temporary stoppages or short-time workers.

Contributors to Unemployment Insurance (age 14–64) : 10,776 males, 3,304 females. Total 14,080.

Mr. J. Parkes, Clerk to the Wednesbury Guardians Committee, informs me that the number of persons in receipt of Public Assistance at December 31st, 1940, were : Outdoor Relief, 563 ; Medical Relief, 25 ; Total, 588.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Total.	Males.	Females.	Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population. Mid. 1940.
Live Births :				
Legitimate ...	557	283	274	
Illegitimate ...	14	9	5	17.7

				Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
Stillbirths :				
Legitimate ...	15	9	6	
Illegitimate ...	—	—	—	25.5

				Death Rate per 1,000 population appropriate to calculations.
Deaths	390	216	174	12.1

Deaths from Puerperal Causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's Short List) :—

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births.
No. 29—Puerperal Sepsis	—	
No. 30—Other Puerperal Causes ...	1	1.7
Total	1	

Death Rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All infants per 1,000 live births	61.2
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	61.0
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...	71.4

Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	40
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	—
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	2
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	1

VITAL STATISTICS—1940 AND PREVIOUS YEARS.

	Live Births.	Birth Rate.	Deaths	Death Rate (all ages).		Death Rate. Under 1 year per 1,000 live Births.		England and Wales.		
			No.	Crude.	Adjusted.	No.	Rate.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Infantile Mortality.
1937	601	18.1	417	12.5	14.3	37	61.5	14.9	12.4	58
1938	601	18.0	406	12.1	13.9	43	71.5	15.1	11.6	53
1939	608	18.0	385	11.5	13.2	35	57.5	14.9	12.1	50*
1940	571	17.7	390	12.1	14.5	35	61.2	14.6	14.3	55*

* Provisional Rates.

The **Standardised Death Rate** for the Borough of Wednesbury for 1939 was 13.2 (12.1 x 1.15) and for 1940, 14.5 (12.1 x 1.20) and is the Death Rate which would have occurred if the age and sex distribution had been the same as that for the Country as a whole.

CAUSES OF DEATH, IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, Year 1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and over	Total	Males	Females	WARDS King's Hill	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—	—	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	6	3	3	2	1	—	3
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	4	5	3	4	2	2	20	15	5	7	3	2	8
Other Tuberculosis	—	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	5	4	1	—	—	2	3
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
General Paralysis of Insane, etc.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	6	13	29	51	27	24	12	6	13	20
Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	4	2	2	2	1	—	1
Cerebral Haemorrhage	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	6	12	23	12	11	11	1	1	10
Heart Disease	1	—	—	1	1	—	3	6	7	15	68	102	59	43	32	18	15	37
Aneurysm	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Circulatory Diseases	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	3	5	11	7	4	5	1	—	5
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	4	5	9	22	14	8	7	4	3	8
Pneumonia	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	3	9	7	24	16	8	11	3	4	6
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	3	1	2	2	—	—	1
Peptic Ulcer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	2	3	—	1	1
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	1	4	1	1	—	3
Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Liver Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	2	6	3	3	3	—	1	2
Acute and Chronic Nephritis	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	4	3	1	2	1	—	1
Puerperal Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Puerperal Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	3	—	3	2	1	—	—
Congenital Debility, Premature Birth, etc.	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	11	7	6	3	2	7
Senility	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	20	7	13	4	6	2	8
Suicide	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	—	1	—	1
Other Violence	—	1	1	—	1	2	1	—	1	2	6	15	7	8	3	2	2	8
Other Defined Diseases	4	—	—	2	3	1	1	2	2	8	6	29	17	12	8	8	5	8
Causes ill-defined	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (2 years & over)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	2	—	—	1	—	1
TOTAL	35	9	2	3	8	7	15	19	36	73	178	385	217	168	123	62	53	147

CAUSES OF DEATH, IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1940.

CAUSES OF DEATH	Under 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and over	Total	Males	Females	WARDS King's Hill	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	2	1	—	—	1
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	1
Whooping Cough	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1	1	—	—	1
Diphtheria	—	1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	1	2	—	—	1
Respiratory Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	3	3	1	4	2	3	—	16	11	5	4	3	4	5
Other Tuberculosis	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	4	3	1	—	1	1	2
Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	4	7	6	1	2	2	—	3
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute Infectious Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer of Buccal Cavity and Oesophagus (males only	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	3	—	—	1	1	1
Cancer of Uterus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	5	8	5	3	3	1	—	4
Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	—	4	3	1	—	—
Cancer of all other sites	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	9	11	24	15	9	6	7	1	10
Diabetes	—	—	—	—		1	1	2	—	—	1	5	3	2	1	1	2	1
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	4	5	23	34	14	20	9	6	10	9
Heart Disease	1	—	1	1	—	—	3	3	7	15	62	93	50	43	17	21	21	34
Other Diseases of the Circulatory System	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	6	1	5	2	1	3	—
Bronchitis	1	—	—	—	1	1	—	4	5	7	30	49	27	22	13	9	10	17
Pneumonia	8	5	—	—	1	—	—	1	1	2	4	22	14	8	8	2	5	7
Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	3	2	1	—	2	1	—
Ulceration of the Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2	5	4	1	3	2	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 yrs.)	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	—
Appendicitis	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	1	—	—	1
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	1	3	5	11	3	8	3	1	1	6
Nephritis	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	1	3	8	6	2	3	1	—	4
Puerperal and post-abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
Premature Birth	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	7	4	4	1	3	3
Congenital Malformations	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	3	4	3	3	1	—
Suicide	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	1	1	2	1	7	6	1	2	2	1	2
Road Traffic Accidents	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	2	—	2	1	—	—	1
Other Violent Causes	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	—	2	6	11	4	7	2	4	1	4
All Other Causes	2	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	1	3	24	36	22	14	10	6	10	10
TOTAL	35	10	4	2	12	8	13	22	27	64	193	390	216	174	74	80	88	128

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Facilities provided are as detailed in the Annual Report for 1938.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

Infant Welfare Centres :

Albert Street	Mondays and Thursdays	2-30 p.m.
King's Hill	Tuesdays and Fridays	2-30 p.m.
Mesty Croft	Mondays and Thursdays	2-30 p.m.

The King's Hill and Mesty Croft Infant Welfare Centres continue also to serve as First Aid Posts.

Attendances, 1940 :—

		New Cases.		Total Attendances.		
	Sessions.	Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	Under 1 year.	1—5 years.	All Ages.
Albert Street	101	159	23	3001	2421	5422
King's Hill	99	104	17	2125	1144	3269
Mesty Croft	102	203	68	3735	2413	6148
Total Attendances (all Centres)						14839
Percentage attendance notified live births... ...						81.6

Ante-Natal Clinics :

	Sessions.	New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Albert Street	48	216	524
King's Hill ...	23	85	254

Number of women attending during year : 350.
Percentage of women confined who attended : 59.7.

It is gratifying to find that over 81 per cent. of the babies born in the Borough attended the Infant Welfare Centres. Total attendances, however, on account of the black-out and the severe winter, have shewn a fall of some 12 per cent.

The Infantile Mortality Rate, 61.2, whilst slightly higher than 1939 (the lowest ever recorded in the Borough), is still below the two previous peace-time years, 1937 and 1938.

Home Visits by Health Visitors :

To Expectant Mothers.		To Children under 1 year.		To Children between the ages of 1 and 5 years.
First Visits.	Total Visits.	First Visits.	Total Visits.	
158	352	545	2451	3405

Total visits (all purposes), 6,208.

Institutional Treatment.

82 mothers were admitted to Hallam Hospital, 66 being referred through the Clinics, 16 by private practitioners.

Ophthalmia Neonatorum.

Two cases were notified during the year ; in neither instance did impairment of vision result.

Maternal Mortality.

There was only one death directly connected with childbirth ; all cases are subject to investigation and report.

Child Life Protection.

Under Sections 206 to 220 of the Public Health Act, 1936, one child was being received for reward at the end of the year.

Free Milk.

Modified dried milks were provided in accordance with the Council's scale, when ordered by a Medical Officer, as in previous years, at an approximate cost of £122 17s. 8d. Forms for obtaining liquid milk, either free or at reduced rate, were completed in respect of expectant and nursing mothers and children under five years of age for submission to the Local Food Executive Officer with whom close co-operation is maintained.

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION.

1939.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	TOTAL	WARDS			
											Kings Hill	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green
Measles	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	–	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Respiratory Tuberculosis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other Tuberculous Diseases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Whooping Cough	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Diphtheria	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Meningitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Convulsions	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Bronchitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	–	1	–	–
Penumonia	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	1	–	2	1	–	1	–
Diarrhoea and Enteritis	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	1	–	5	1	1	–	3
Syphilis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Congenital Malformations	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	–	2	1	–	1	–
Premature Birth	8	3	–	–	11	2	–	–	–	13	3	3	1	6
Congenital Debility	1	1	–	–	2	–	1	–	–	3	2	–	–	1
Heart Disease	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Other Circulatory Diseases	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other Causes	2	–	–	–	2	3	–	1	–	6	–	3	–	3
TOTAL ...	11	5	–	1	17	8	5	5	–	35	8	8	3	16

CAUSES OF DEATH UNDER ONE YEAR IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION. 1940.

CAUSES OF DEATH.	Under 1 week	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	4 weeks and under 3 months	3 months and under 6 months	6 months and under 9 months	9 months and under 12 months	TOTAL	WARDS			
											Kings Hill	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green
Whooping Cough	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	1	1	–	–	–
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other forms of Tuberculosis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	–	–	1	1
Measles	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions ...	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Heart Disease	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1
Bronchitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	1	–	–
Pneumonia	–	–	–	–	–	2	4	2	–	8	2	3	1	2
Diarrhoea	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–
Premature Birth	11	–	–	–	11	–	–	–	–	11	3	–	4	4
Congenital Malformations	4	–	–	–	4	3	–	–	–	7	3	3	1	–
Diphtheria	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Meningitis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Convulsions	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Syphilis	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
All Other Causes	2	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	2	1	–	–	1
TOTAL ...	18	–	–	–	18	7	5	5	–	35	10	7	8	10

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.

Sources of supply are as detailed in the report for the year 1938. Bacteriological and chemical tests have maintained their usual satisfactory standard.

Drainage and Sewerage.

Mr. Arthur Booth, M.I.M.C.E., F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., Borough Engineer, reports :—

Sewerage.

The media has been washed and re-graded in two percolating filters.

Rainfall.

The total rainfall for the year was 25.54 inches.

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Mr. Arthur Booth, M.I.M.C.E., F.R.I.B.A., M.I.Struct.E., Borough Surveyor, reports that during the year no houses have been erected by the Corporation ; 19 houses were erected by private enterprise. Since 1st January, 1919, 3,086 houses have been erected by the Corporation, 1,216 by private enterprise, making a total of 4,302.

On the 1st July the Council applied to the Minister of Health for an Order extending by three years time limited by the Wednesbury (Dale Street, Nos. 1 and 3) Housing Confirmation Orders, 1937, and on the 16th October extension was granted to the 9th August, 1943.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Houses infested :	(*a*)	Council ...	36
	(*b*)	Other houses ...	3

In two cases Council houses were found to be infested on more than one occasion.

Small Dwellings Acquisition Act.

The Borough Treasurer, Mr. J. S. Hodges, F.I.M.T.A., A.S.A.A. informs me that no advances were made during 1940, and that since the Act was brought into operation in 1934 advances totalling £30,040 have been made in respect of 64 houses.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Dr. W. D. Carruthers, the County Medical Officer of Health, has given the following details of samples taken in Wednesbury during 1940 :—

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Details of Samples taken in Wednesbury during 1940.

Article of Food.	No. of Samples.	Genuine.	Adulterated.
Milk	43	39	4
General Foods ...	31	29	2

General Foods.

Beef Sausage (Preserved).
Butter.
Cheese.
Corn flour.
Pork Sausage.
Pearl Barley.
Pepper (2).
Seidlitze Powders.

Custard powder.
Camphorated Oil.
Coffee (3).
Ground Gentian (2).
Ground Ginger.
Ginger—lump.
Irish Cream.
Lard (2).
Olive Oil.
Salmon and Shrimp Paste.
Self-raising Flour.
Sugar.
Shredded Beef Suet (2).
Stork Margarine.
Tea (2).
White Precipitate Ointment.

One sample of milk was slightly deficient in fat and the vendor was cautioned.

A sample of milk taken from a retailer was found to contain a small amount of added water. Further samples taken from the wholesaler concerned, who was outside the area, contained a slight amount of added water, and the vendors were cautioned.

An informal sample of ground gentian root, from a retailer, was found to be adulterated with powdered fruit stone shells. A repeat sample contained 10 per cent. of barley husk. Proceedings were instituted and the case was dismissed as the retailer had a warranty from the wholesaler.

MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

Particulars of Examination of Samples obtained in Wednesbury M.B. during 1940.

	Total Samples.	Cleanliness.		Tuberculous.
		Satis-factory.	Unsatis-factory.	
Ordinary Milk ...	11	7	4	1
Specially Designated Milks :—				
" Accredited " ...	2	2	—	—
" Tuberculin Tested "	6	4	2	—
" Tuberculin Tested " Pasteurised	3	3	—	—
Pasteurised... ...	10	10	—	—

All the pasteurised samples except one satisfied the phosphatase test. In addition, one sample of sterilized milk was taken and was satisfactory.

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

January and February, 1940, were characterised by the severest winter conditions since 1891, and although no epidemic of influenza was experienced there was an increased incidence of respiratory infection particularly affecting the elderly and productive of increased mortality in the older age groups.

No epidemic of infectious disease arose, but Diphtheria cases were prevalent during the autumn.

Tables shewing the incidence of infectious disease by age groups are appended in respect of the years 1939 and 1940.

Whooping Cough and Measles only became notifiable from November 1st, 1939.

146 Throat Swabs were sent to the County Laboratory, 27 being positive for Diphtheria, 119 negative.

Immunisation against Diphtheria.

This was carried out as detailed in my report for 1938.

The number of children receiving protective treatment was less than in 1939, but an intensive canpaign now in operation is producing a more satisfactory acceptance rate.

From September, 1936, to December 31st, 1940, 1,185 children of school age and 504 of from one to five years of age have received the full course of injections.

	Age 1 to 5.	5 years and over.
1936	32	165
1937	28	302
1938	68	168
1939	210	304
1940	166	246

Hospital Accommodation.

No increased accommodation is yet available.

Tuberculosis.

		Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.
New Cases :	Males	21	6
	Females	6	4
Deaths :	Males	11	3
	Females	5	1

At the end of the year 163 persons were on the Register ; the number for 1939 was 164 ; for 1938, 173.

The Public Health Tuberculosis Regulations, 1940, requiring completion of Forms T.S.147 have been duly complied with.

During the year 148 sputum tests were carried out at the County Laboratory, 25 being positive, 123 negative.

Close co-operation is maintained with the Tuberculosis Officer, Dr. D. J. Loughran.

Vaccination.

Dr. G. E. V. Morris, the Public Vaccinator, has rendered the following return in respect of the year 1940 :—

Number of Births	487
Vaccinations	82
Declarations	343
Insusceptibility	Nil
Deaths	19
Postponements	13
Removals	7
Cases to be dealt with by Vaccination Officer	23

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis) IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1939

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS.												Total cases notified	WARDS.				Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		King's Hill.	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green		
Small-Pox	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scarlet Fever	–	3	6	13	12	47	26	2	10	–	–	–	119	48	10	20	41	40	–
Diphtheria	–	–	4	1	1	18	4	4	2	1	–	–	35	9	3	7	16	26	–
Enteric Fever (including Paratyphoid)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	1	–
Puerperal Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	1	–	–	2	–	–	–	2	–	–
Pneumonia	3	2	2	2	2	6	3	5	12	8	18	4	67	18	11	12	26	1	24
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	4	5	5	2	20	4	3	6	7	3	–
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	2	–	–	–	–	–
Cerebro Spinal Fever	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	2	–	1	–	1	–	–
*Measles	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	3	2
*Whooping Cough	1	–	4	2	–	3	–	–	–	–	–	–	10	8	–	–	2	–	1
TOTAL	7	6	16	18	15	74	35	14	30	15	23	6	259	90	28	46	97	74	27

1939. Incidence Rate per 1,000 of the population :—Scarlet Fever 3.5 ; Diphtheria 1.0 ; Pneumonia 2.0 ; Puerperal Pyrexia 0.06 ; Erysipelas 0.6

* Measles and Whooping Cough only became notifiable from November 1st, 1939.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (other than Tuberculosis) IN AGE GROUPS AND WARD DISTRIBUTION, 1940.

DISEASE.	AGE GROUPS.												Total cases notified	WARDS.				Cases Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
	Under 1	1 to 2	2 to 3	3 to 4	4 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 65	65 and over		King's Hill.	Market	Town Hall	Wood Green		
Small-Pox	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–		–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Scarlet Fever	–	2	6	–	6	42	22	11	10	–	–	–	99	18	15	15	51	24	1
Diphtheria	–	1	–	3	2	22	15	5	3	–	1	–	52	21	3	4	24	37	3
Enteric Fever (Typhoid and Paratyphoid)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Pneumonia	1	1	–	1	1	4	2	5	8	9	14	2	48	15	8	7	18	–	22
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	1	1	–	–	1	5	1	1	–	3	2	2
Acute Poliomyelitis	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	1	–
Acute Encephalitis Lethargica	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	–
Dysentery	–	–	–	1	1	2	–	–	–	–	–	1	5	–	–	–	5	2	–
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	2	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	2	–	–	–	–
Puerperal Pyrexia	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	3	–	–	–	3	2	–	–	1	–	–
Puerperal Fever	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Erysipelas	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	3	5	7	–	16	2	6	3	5	2	–
Measles	1	5	5	7	3	17	2	–	–	–	–	–	40	2	3	12	23	–	–
Whooping Cough	3	3	4	2	3	13	–	–	–	–	–	–	28	13	1	5	9	–	2
TOTAL	7	12	15	14	16	101	43	23	28	15	22	4	300	74	39	46	141	68	30

1940. Incidence Rate per 1,000 of the population :
Scarlet Fever 3.0, Diphtheria 1.6, Pneumonia 1.4, Puerperal Pyrexia 0.09, Erysipelas 0.4.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND COUNCILLORS OF THE BOROUGH OF WEDNESBURY.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Minister of Health has intimated by Circular 2314 that Annual Reports should be dealt with as laid down by Circular 2067, dated 19th July, 1940, and that such Report for 1940 shall be regarded as an interim one. Therefore the usual statistics and records will be carefully preserved until after the termination of the war.

The following matters, however, I feel are rightfully submitted to you as a brief indlcation of the activities of your Sanitary Inspector's Department.

Your Chief Inspector, Mr. Herbert Topping, retired from your service on the 31st August, 1940, and I took up the position and control of the department from the 1st September, 1940.

Mr. A. Matthews, Additional Sanitary Inspector, enlisted in H.M. Forces in February, and Mr. J. Barber, Clerk, enlisted in October, 1940. A new junior clerk, Mr. S. Matthewson, was engaged and commenced duties in December, 1940. For the major part of the year therefore the department was carried on by two Sanitary Inspectors and two clerks.

During the year, 3,018 inspections have been carried out. Every effort has been made to deal with complaints, maintain the proper supervision of food supplies, aid in the control of notifiable infectious diseases, and maintain the efficient collection and disposal of house refuse.

Under the Public Health Act, 1936, 1,066 visits were made to houses for initial inspection and subsequent re-inspection of works in progress regarding complaints at 314 houses. In addition, 63 visits to common lodging houses were made.

Although action under the Housing Act, 1936, gradually reduced, 397 visits were recorded for inspections and enquiries during the year. Only one house was represented as unfit for human habitation and one Demolition Order was made.

Under the Factories Act, 1937, 52 inspections were made.

The centralisation of the slaughter of animals for food has resulted in one slaughterhouse at the bacon factory of Messrs. Hollingsworth, Union Street, Wednesbury, being left to our supervision. I wish to place on record the commendable co-operation experienced with the personnel of this firm with your Inspectors. During the year 327 visits were made and 21,277 carcases were inspected.

Butchers' shops and other food shops received 162 visits.

45 visits to the Markets were made.

The weight of food condemned during the year was as follows :

Meat : 11 tons, 15 cwts. 1 qr. 2 lbs.
Other foods : 11 cwts. 1 qr. 20 lbs.

In connection with the control of Infectious Diseases 212 visits were made.

39 houses were disinfested and cleansed of bugs. 80 visits were recorded in connection with this work.

For inspections of sanitary conveniences under the Shops Act, 1934, 18 visits were made.

Seven visits were made for the purpose of obtaining samples of milk, water and tinned food for the purpose of submitting the same for bacteriological analysis.

The remaining inspections were of an unclassified miscellaneous type and include interviews, so helpful to the progress of the work.

As regards the Collection and Disposal of House Refuse, I feel I have at least maintained progress, and trust I shall show effective progress during the coming year. During the year for inspections of refuse tips and other work, 106 visits are recorded. I have to thank you for the provision of an additional vehicle which has proved of great assistance in coping with the " salvage " work.

The total weight of refuse collected (estimated weight), 10,054 tons, was mainly disposed of at two tips, known as " Old Park " and " Mounts." by controlled tipping, but approximately 200 tons of this was dealt with by incineration. In addition, 175 tons of " salvage " was collected.

In conclusion, I wish to express appreciation of the loyal co-operation of Mr. G. H. Suggitt, your Additional Sanitary Inspector, and Messrs. Higgs and Barber, the two clerks of the Department.

For the kindly welcome and co-operation shown to me by all members of the Council under such difficult war-time conditions, I record my sincere appreciation.

I am, Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

FRED J. TURNER,

Chief Sanitary Inspector.

M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Sanitary Department,
Wednesbury.

September, 1941.